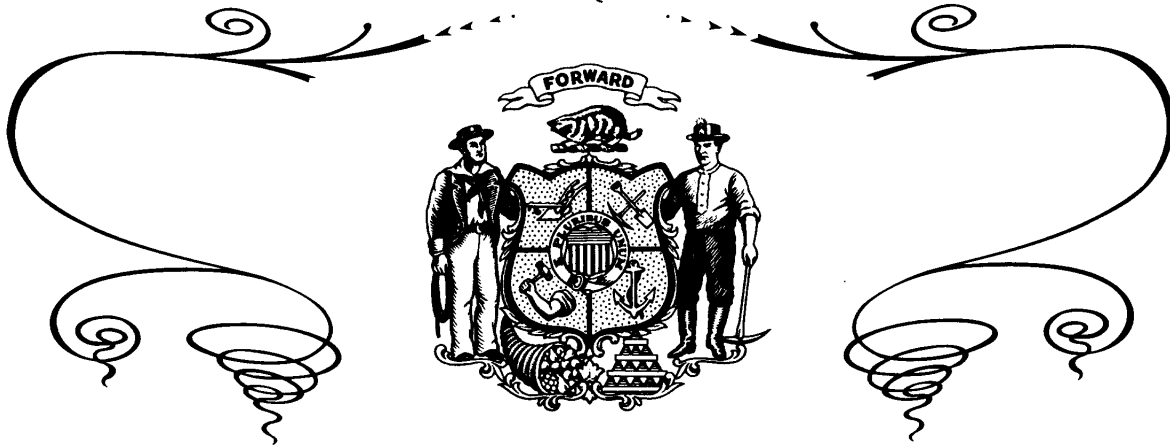


State of Wisconsin



2009 Assembly Joint Resolution 89

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to: declaring October as Co-op Month.

Whereas, cooperatives are independent, member-owned and controlled businesses, organized to process and market products and goods for their members; and

Whereas, cooperatives serve many needs including credit and financial services, health care, child care, housing, insurance, legal and professional services; and

Whereas, cooperatives sell food, farm supplies, hardware, and recreational equipment and provide electricity, telephone, and Internet services; and

Whereas, today approximately 2.7 million Wisconsinites depend on approximately 800 cooperatives to provide these needed goods and services; and

Whereas, cooperatives help grow Wisconsin's economy, employing more than 23,000 Wisconsin residents and recording about \$5.6 billion in gross sales each year; and

Whereas, Wisconsin was one of the first states to enact a law authorizing cooperatives in 1887, spurring the growth of electric, telephone, and agricultural cooperatives and town mutual associations; and

Whereas, the first Wisconsin rural electric cooperatives started in Richland Center and Columbus in May 1937; the Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company was the one of the first telephone companies incorporated in 1905; and the first grain farmer cooperative started in Madison in 1857; and

Whereas, Wisconsin's strong roots as a co-op state continue today since two in every five people in the United States belong to a cooperative; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the Wisconsin legislature declares October 2009 as "Co-op Month" and encourages Badger State residents to recognize the important role that cooperatives play in their every day lives.

Senator Fred A. Risser
President of the Senate

Representative Michael J. Sheridan
Speaker of the Assembly

Date

Patrick E. Fuller
Assembly Chief Clerk